

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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82-831004

28 February 1983

TO: State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification

FROM: John F. Brown, Executive Secretary
Commission on Teacher Credentialing

SUBJECT: California Basic Skills Requirement Effective February 1, 1983

The California Legislature passed a series of three bills during the 1981-82 legislative sessions which established a "basic skills" requirement. Under the new law, individuals who apply on or after February 1, 1983 for the initial issuance of a California credential must first pass a proficiency examination covering basic reading, writing and mathematical skills.

A proficiency examination has been developed specifically to implement this new "basic skills" law. The California Basic Educational Skills Test [CBEST] will be administered by the Educational Testing Service and will be available only in California. The CBEST will be administered four or more times each year. The cost to take the test will be \$30.00.

In recognition of the difficulty that out-of-state applicants will have in taking the CBEST prior to applying for their credentials, the "basic skills" law made provisions for the granting of a one year non-renewable emergency credential, pending passage of the CBEST. This emergency credential will only be issued at the request of the applicant's California employer. This deferral for out-of-state applicants is to remain in effect until June 30, 1984. After that date, out-of-state applicants will be required to take and pass the CBEST prior to the issuance of any license unless the law is amended.

Individuals, from both reciprocity and non-reciprocity states, who meet the following requirements will be issued a one year non-renewable emergency credential:

- (1) completed an out-of-state approved professional preparation program for a credential comparable to the credential that would have been awarded by California prior to the introduction of the CBEST requirement;
- (2) completed all other minimum requirements for the California credential that would have been awarded prior to the introduction of the CBEST requirement; and
- (3) passed a basic skills test developed and administered by their employing California school district.

28 February 1983

Applicants who qualify under the reciprocity agreement for teaching credentials will, upon completion of the CBEST requirement, be issued the California five-year preliminary Multiple or Single Subject credential; i.e., the credential that would have been awarded prior to the passage of the "basic skills" law.

Applicants for teaching credentials who do not meet the reciprocity agreement requirements will, upon completion of the CBEST requirement, be issued the California one-year preliminary teaching credential or the appropriate specialist or services credential; i.e., the credential that would have been awarded prior to the passage of the "basic skills" law.

CBEST INFORMATION

The CBEST need only be passed once and the passing score will remain valid indefinitely for all credential and employment purposes. CBEST can be repeated as many times as necessary to obtain a passing score, but the fee (currently \$30) is charged for each test administration.

CALENDAR FOR 1983:

TEST DATE	REGULAR REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE
May 7, 1983 (afternoon)	April 11, 1983	April 20, 1983
July 16, 1983	June 20, 1983	June 29, 1983

Questions about the administration of the CBEST or procedures on how to register for the CBEST should be sent to:

Educational Testing Service
California Basic Educational Skills Test Program
Box 1904
Berkeley, California 94701
Phone 415/849-0950

Questions about credential requirements, the one year non-renewable emergency credentials, or reciprocity agreements should be sent to:

Commission on Teacher Credentialing
California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST)
P.O. Box 2670
Sacramento, California 95812
Phone 916/445-7254

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH ALL APPROPRIATE INDIVIDUALS,
AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS WITHIN YOUR STATE